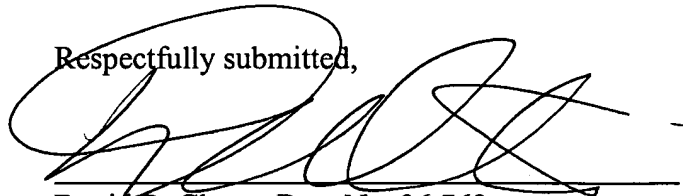


three months of entry into the national phase under 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 of an international application, (3) before the mailing date of the first office action on the merits, or (4) before the mailing of a first office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114.

Respectfully submitted,



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ATTORNEY OR AGENT OF RECORD

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2/4/02

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